

Joint Staff Preventive Medicine Report



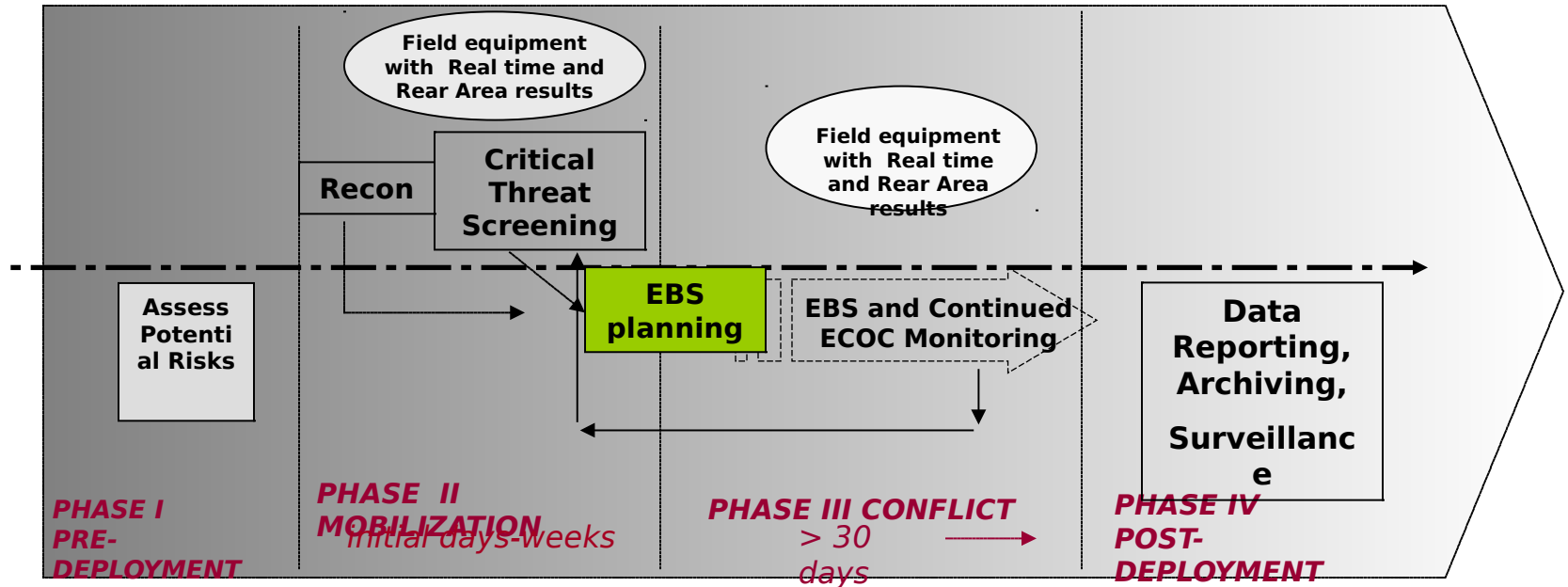
***Major Randy Smith
J-4 Logistics Directorate
Health Service Support Division
The Joint Staff***



Agenda

- **OEHS Surveillance Program Update**
- **Status of Anthrax Vaccination Program**
- **Combatant Command Issue - Iraqi Sand**
- **Questions**

OEH Process



(U)

Goals:

Identify, assess and control exposures OEH risks

Intelligence Based

(U) Goals:

Assess and Select bed-down sites and base camps

Establish OEH Risk Level

(U) Goals:

Ensure risk control measures are working

Document exposures to acute and chronic health risks

(U) Goals:

Document all deployment related exposures and health risks

Archive and Maintain for future assessments

COMMUNICATE RISK



Deployment OEH Surveillance Policy

- (U) DOD Directive 6490.2, Comprehensive Medical Surveillance, 21 Oct 04
- (U) DOD Instruction 6490.3, Implementation and Application of Joint Medical Surveillance for Deployments, 7 Aug 97
(Under Revision)
- (U) DOD Instruction 6055.1, DOD Safety and Occupational Health Program, 19 Aug 98 (Under Revision)
- (U) HQDA Policy Letter 01-01, 27 Jun 01, Force Health Protection
Deployment Occupational and Environmental Health Threats
(Extended by HQDA Ltr, 1-03-1, 28 Jul 03)
- (U) JCS Memo, MCM-0006-02, Updated Procedures for Deployment Health Surveillance and Readiness, 1 Feb 02
- (U) JCS Memo, MCM-0026-02, Chemical Warfare Agent Exposure Planning Guidance, 29 Apr 02



Deployment OEH Surveillance Policy

- **(U) USD/P&R, “Improved Occupational and Environmental Health Surveillance Reporting and Archiving,” 29 May 03**
- **(U) JCS Memo, DJSM-0612-03, Improving Occupational and Environmental Health Surveillance (OEHS) Reporting and Archiving, 30 June 03**
- **(U) ASD (HA) Memo, “Records for Environmental/Epidemiological Events Impacting Deployed Forces”, 18 Dec 03**



Proposed DODI 6490.3

- **Most recent version staffed Feb-Mar 05**
- **Significant proposed changes from 1997 version**
 - **Redefines Deployment**
 - **Pre- and Post-Deployment Health Assessments, Serum Draws, Individual Medical Readiness screenings for all deployments, including TDYs**
 - **Requires COCOMS to provide daily 6-digit grid coordinate of all personnel**
 - **Includes USG civilians and contractors**
 - **Urges Reserve Component personnel to stay on active duty to resolve medical requirements**



Proposed DODI 6490.3

- **Proposed Instruction is significant expansion of at all levels for both medical and personnel systems**
 - **Services and Combatant Commands are largely non-concurring with proposed changes**
 - **Perception is that technology doesn't presently exist to accomplish the required tasks**
 - **Significant concern about potential applicability to non-hazardous events (routine training in garrison?)**
 - **Potentially directing limited resources to documenting activities presenting very low hazard potential**



Proposed DODI 6490.3

- **There are many good things in draft document:**
 - **Incorporates numerous policy letters issued since 1997**
 - **Clarifies roles and responsibilities**
 - **Incorporates lessons learned from numerous operations in past 7 years**
- **Continuing to work with ASD (Health Affairs) on this policy**



Status of Anthrax Vaccination Program

- **Anthrax Vaccination Immunization Program Halted**
 - 27 Oct 04 Federal District Court Injunction
 - Rulemaking Process for FDA's Dec 2003 Final Rule in Question
 - SECDEF halted anthrax vaccination completely
- **DoD Requested Emergency Use Authority (EUA) as outlined in 2004 BioShield Law**
 - Granted by FDA in January 2005 with "Right of Refusal"
 - *Not in force* until Court removes or modifies injunction
 - Hearing scheduled for 21 Mar 05
- **Future of Anthrax Vaccinations Not Yet Resolved**



Combatant Command Issue

- **Recent issue discussed relevant to Central Command - “Unique” Properties of Iraqi Sand (?)**
- **US Navy Institute for Dental and Biomedical Research (NIDBR) published presentation**
 - **“The Unique Properties of Iraqi Sand and Their Military Significance” NIDBR, Great Lakes, MI, 2004**
 - **Research originally intended to determine sand’s damaging impact on dental instruments**
 - **Preliminary interpretation of data is that Iraqi/Kuwaiti Sand is unique due to unusually small, respirable particles with a large number of crevices that could harbor metals and/or microorganisms**



Combatant Command Issue

- **NIDBR research proposing increase in risk is not consistent with existing regional sand knowledge obtained since 1991**
 - Bulk samples only, not breathing zone
 - Selected from only three sites
- **Extensive database compiled since 1991 on Arabian peninsula sand composition, and potential health impacts**
 - Environmental Health Site Assessments
 - USACHPPM bulk, breathing zone, and respirable particulate samples



Combatant Command Issue

- **Recommended course of action:**
 - Navy research collaborate with existing studies residing at USACHPPM, NEHC and AFIOH
 - Compare and contrast with existing sand data
- **Some data gaps exist in literature review**
 - epidemiology
 - soil characterization
 - toxicology of small sand particulates
- **Recommend a reassessment of hazard potential once review/study is complete**



Questions?